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U. S. D. A.

Housekeepers' Chat.

Monday, February 3, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Stormy-Weather Jobs Around the Farm Home." With thanks to Mary Collopy, Extension Service, Colorado Agricultural College, Ft. Collins. Menu from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

The subject of this talk, as announced, is "Stormy-Weather Jobs Around the Farm Home." But Mary Collopy, of Colorado, who wrote the talk, says she can suggest another title which will be much more encouraging to the men listeners, for whom this talk is especially intended. Her second title is "Why Husbands Go to Heaven."

I shall read you her clever talk, prepared especially for husbands, and then we'll discuss plans for dinner. Here is Mary Collopy's talk:

In attempting to tell you in a few minutes, why husbands go to heaven, I shall not make use of any tiresome statistics, nor bore you with results of surveys made, if any.

Rather, I shall speak from the viewpoint of the farmer's wife, telling you the simple things which husbands can do in order to insure their admittance at St. Peter's gate.

These few suggestions are particularly seasonal now, inasmuch as the farmer spends more hours in the house during this very cold weather than he will a month later.

1st -- He can make that bench for the wash tubs. Comparatively few farm homes in the West are equipped with a model laundry room. A step in this direction is the combination milk-house and laundry in which the same motor equipment is used for turning the cream separator and the washing machine. Even when a washing machine is used, there is still need of the bench for the tubs. And, let me suggest here, that extra credit will be given at the Golden Gate if that bench is made of the proper height so mother's back will not ache when she finishes rinsing the clothes.

2nd -- He will repair that sagging clothesline, wondering meanwhile how she ever endured its inconvenience this long.

3rd -- He will take a half hour some morning to fit a pole into the walls of the clothes closet to provide extra room for clothes hangers. (No man likes the appearance of his best coat after it has hung on a single nail.) While he is working in the closet, he will add a few more hooks, too.

4th -- He can gain favor, too, by adding casters to the kitchen table and the wood box. The expense is very, very small and the time required very short. These additions will help when mother mops that kitchen, and when she wants to move the table about during canning season or lard-rendering time.

5th- He can get one of the boys to help him put an eave trough over the kitchen door so that the back steps will not be covered with ice. This repair can be accomplished much more quickly than that of a broken leg.

6th - In appreciation for some good homemade candy, he will make a shelf on the back porch for the milk utensils. This will result in the neater appearance of the back porch. (You know how callers have a habit of entering the back door of the farm house.) This arrangement will also allow better ventilation of the utensils.

7th - And that wobbly ironing board! How does a woman know that about five minutes work with a hammer will make it firm and reliable? So the thoughtful husband will include that minor repair.

8th - He can surprise his wife and children by suggesting that he will apply a coat of waterproof shellac on the kitchen linoleum if they will promise to stay out of the room for an evening. This will extend the life of the linoleum and will reduce mopping to a minimum.

9th - That greasy old oil stove out there on the cold back porch? Of course it isn't an enticing job, yet it must be cleaned before warm weather. Down in his heart he knows that his wife never can trim a lamp wick properly, so he tackles that; cleans the burners -- even boils them -- trims the wicks and puts in oil. Lastly, he covers it well with layers of clean newspapers to prevent the entrance of dust. Surely any wife would be so pleased that she would cook a specially good dinner for a husband like that.

10th - He will repair those cellar steps before it is too late, and he will paint the bottom step white, for that will be a signal for his wife and children in descending the dark stairway. Yes, he must plan how he can afford that electric light plant -- dangerous business, this carrying lighted matches to the cellar.

11th - The hot bed? It will save money on grocery bills, he admits. Yes, he must start work on that right away, if there is to be an early garden. Days are longer now; he can manage that.

12th - When he see how happy these little helps have made his busy wife he will sharpen the kitchen knives, tighten the springs in the roller shades, oil the hinges in the squeaky doors, and lengthen those bedslats which are always falling out. Then, if he is at all in doubt as to his popularity with St. Peter, he will paint the kitchen, and get the chicken coops in good order for the early hatches.

Now, to all wives who are listening in, I extend a hearty invitation to complete the list of stormy-weather jobs which husbands can do in order to insure their everlasting happiness.

That's all of Miss Collopy's talk. Now, don't you think this ideal husband is entitled to something out of the ordinary, for dinner? .. What's that? Here's a doubting Thomasina who says there isn't any such ideal husband... Oh, come now -- maybe there isn't, but let's cook a very nice dinner; anyway, and serve it on the new silvery green tablecloth we got for Christmas, and place a posey in the little orange flower bowl -- and see what happens. I'll bet a cooky -- a nice big chocolate cooky -- that any husband would turn over a new leaf, and

oil squeaky hinges and lengthen the bed slats, and do all those other little chores, if he could sit down to a pretty table, like the one we're going to have.

And wait till he sees what we have for dinner! Lima Beans in Tomato Sauce, with Crisp Bacon; Mashed Turnips; Lettuce with a Tart Dressing; Hot, Crisp Corn Bread; Fruit Cup; and Chocolate Drop Cookies.

Here is my recipe for Lima Beans in Tomato Sauce, with 10 ingredients:

2 cups dried lima beans	1 large onion, sliced
2 quarts water	2 tablespoons flour
2 cups canned tomatoes	Salt
8 whole cloves	Pepper, and
1/2 pound sliced bacon	Tabasco sauce.

10 ingredients, for Lima Beans in Tomato Sauce: (Repeat).

Wash the beans, and soak them overnight in water to cover. In the morning, pour off this water, cook in 2 quarts of lightly salted water for about 1/2 hour, or until tender but not broken, and drain. Simmer the tomatoes, with the cloves, for 10 minutes and strain off the juice. Cook the bacon in a skillet until crisp. Remove from the fat, drain on absorbent paper, and keep warm. Brown the onion in the bacon fat, stir in the flour until well blended, add the tomato juice and beans, and cook until the sauce thickens. Season to taste with salt, pepper, and tabasco, and serve with the strips of bacon over the top.

Let's repeat the menu: Lima Beans in Tomato Sauce, with Crisp Bacon; Mashed Turnips; Lettuce with a Tart Dressing; Hot, Crisp, Corn Bread; Fruit Cup; and Chocolate Drop Cookies.

Tomorrow: "The Common Cold."

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